

RI Small Business Development Center



Background

- Part of a national network of 62 SBDCs in all states and most U.S. territories
- Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration
- In Rhode Island, hosted and supported by the University of Rhode Island and based on the Kingston campus.
- Program participates in a rigorous accreditation process every five years.
- Five regional centers throughout Rhode Island

Programs and Services

- No-cost, one-on-one confidential business counseling provided to entrepreneurs who want to start, grow or maintain their businesses.
- Areas include financing, financial analysis, strategic planning, market research, sales/marketing/digital marketing, accounting and record keeping, succession planning, business plan development, starting a business, and many others.
- Specialization in access to capital and loan packaging
- Biweekly webinar series on digital marketing topics (Thursdays, 11 a.m.)
- Other topical training programs throughout the year.

2020 Highlights

- 873 client businesses served
- 5,453 hours of counseling provided
- \$24,609,870 in capital raised by small businesses with RISBDC assistance (*includes PPP, EIDL, RRF, SVOG and state grant funds)
- 38% of clients served designated themselves as a minority, and nearly 50% were women
- 37 training programs (mostly webinars) presented, with 2,705 attendees; emphasis on digital marketing and ecommerce as shuttered businesses transitioned to remote operations.

RISBDC Contact Info

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